

Task Force 2-20 FA Acknowledges Accomplishments; Remembers Heritage, with Combat Patch Ceremony

By PFC Robert Feldpausch
Battalion Fire Direction Center
HHS Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery (MLRS)
4th Fires Brigade

The “Deep Strike” Battalion celebrated its Soldiers’ accomplishments April 5 with a ceremony to honor the award of the 4th Infantry Division Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for Former Wartime Service, or the “Combat Patch” outside its Battalion Headquarters on Forward Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The Combat Patch represents the Soldiers’ actions as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Task Force 2-20 FA deployed to Iraq as a multiple launch rocket system battalion consisting of two firing batteries, a headquarters battery and an attached forward support company. Its Soldiers have demonstrated an outstanding ability to adapt to the challenges faced in a combat zone, from being able to deliver timely and accurate missile fires on a moment’s notice, to conducting convoy logistics patrol missions, to maintaining their equipment to the highest standard.

In recognition, the Soldiers of Task Force 2-20 FA can now wear their combat patch with pride and feel a sense of belonging with 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers past and present.

The 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery has a rich history spanning nine decades with combat in four wars. The “Deep Strike” Battalion was constituted on July 1, 1916 in the regular Army as Battery B, 20th Field Artillery. Subsequent designations and redesignations followed as well as participation in World War I, World War II, Vietnam and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In September 1998, 9-1 Field Artillery was re-flagged as the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment. In 2001 the Battalion supported the Army’s testing and fielding of the M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System, and became the first M270A1 unit in the Army.

In March 2003 the Battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I. During that campaign, in November of 2003, they provided the division’s first deep missile fires in combat with the employment of the M48 Army Tactical Missile System. The Soldiers also conducted non-standard missions including armed reconnaissance patrols, cordons and searches, joint security patrols, raids, and civil military operations.

Redeploying to Fort Hood in March 2004, the Battalion was praised for its accomplishments.

Once again answering the call to duty, Task Force 2-20 FA deployed in December 2005 in support of OIF 05-07 where it is currently conducting operations and continuing to field new MLRS technology.

In January 2006 the Task Force fired the division’s first M31 Guided MLRS in support of operations across Iraq.

The Soldiers of 2-20 FA have received recognition for their accomplishments and can now proudly wear their Combat Patch to show that they know what it takes to get the mission accomplished.

The “Steadfast and Loyal” men and women of Task Force 2-20 FA are forever a part of the battalion’s combat legacy and know what it means to be called “Deep Strike!”